

## REMARKS ON PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

### BALTIMORE

May 17, 1964

I want to speak to you this evening about a matter of grave consequence to our State and its good reputation. It is no exaggeration to say that the eyes of the entire nation will be centered upon what we in Maryland do in the primary election next Tuesday.

As believers in democracy and in the people's right at all times to choose their officers of government, I think that most of us would agree on the soundness of the principle of presidential primaries. Its purpose is to give the people a greater voice in the selection of party nominees for President of the United States. I believe, however, that our presidential primary in Maryland this year is being misused.

As we all know, some weeks ago, the governor of Alabama came to Maryland and filed as a candidate for the Democratic nomination as President of the United States. I do not question the right of Governor Wallace to do this but I do question his motives. When the Governor of Alabama came here, he announced openly that he was not a serious candidate for the presidency and did not expect to be nominated. In truth, he is asking that we in Maryland throw away our right to participate in the selection of the next President of the United States merely to accommodate his prejudices.

During this campaign, Governor Wallace has ignored the main issue—the selection of a presidential nominee—and has concentrated his efforts upon arousing passions and inflaming antagonisms that would have been better left unstirred. The aftermath of his appearance in Cambridge is a clear example of this. Let me remind you it is now costing the taxpayers of Maryland more than \$5,000 a day to maintain law and order in Cambridge as a result of the Governor's vists. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that an overwhelming majority of Maryland Democrats favor the nomination of President Johnson. After the great tragedy of last November, our only consolation was the fact that the man who succeeded President Kennedy was the eminently qualified Lyndon B. Johnson.

To show our appreciation, to demonstrate our awareness of the magnificent job that President Johnson has done for this country since that tragic November 22nd, we can at least give him a resounding victory at the polls on Tuesday. I believe that Maryland Democrats